



2008 washington general election media kit

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Washington
Secretary of State
SAM REED

top 2 primary

Quick facts:

- A Top 2 Primary allows voters to choose among all candidates running for each office. Voters do not have to declare a party affiliation or select one party's ballot to vote in the primary.
- Candidates for each partisan office may state a preference for a political party, which is listed on the ballot.
- Candidates do not have to be supported, nominated or endorsed by the party they prefer, and that preference does not imply that the party approves of or associates with that candidate.
- The two candidates who receive the most votes for each office in the Primary Election qualify for the November General Election. Candidates must also receive at least 1 percent of the votes cast in that race to advance to the November General Election.

History:

The Top 2 Primary was passed by the people in 2004 as an initiative. Nearly 60 percent of voters approved I-872.

In May 2005, the state Democratic, Republican and Libertarian parties sued in federal court to prevent its implementation. The political parties argued that the Top 2 Primary system violated their right of free association. The federal District Court agreed with them and in July 2005 prohibited the State from implementing the Top 2 Primary. In August 2006, the 9th Circuit Court of Appeals agreed with the District Court.

The State appealed to the U.S. Supreme Court. In March 2008, the Supreme Court overturned the lower courts and upheld the constitutionality of I-872.

The opinion of the U.S. Supreme Court said:

"The First Amendment does not require this extraordinary and precipitous nullification of the will of the people."

The Court also says the new primary:

"[...]does not, by its terms, choose parties' nominees. The essence of nomination – the choice of a party representative – does not occur under I-872. The law never refers to the candidates as nominees of any party, nor does it treat them as such. To the contrary, the election regulations specifically provide that the primary 'does not serve to determine the nominees of a political party but serves to winnow the number of candidates to a final list of two for the general election.'"

voter registration

- Voters have until October 4, to register to vote or update their registration for the November 4th General Election.
- Citizens not currently registered in Washington State have until November 20, 2008, to register in-person at their local election office.
- Washington has a statewide voter registration database that screens the voter rolls for duplicate registrations, felons, and deceased persons.
- The database is made up of three categories:
 - Active Registrations**
 - New registrations are added to the database when people decide to register for the first time, turn 18 and register, or move into the state and register.
 - Registrations may be pending because more information is needed.
 - Inactive Registrations**
 - A registration is put in an inactive status when election material is mailed to a voter and returned by the post office as undeliverable.
 - A voter who is on inactive status may switch back to active status simply by updating his or her registration information.
 - An inactive registration is eventually canceled if it remains inactive through two federal general elections.
 - Canceled Registrations**
 - An inactive registration is canceled if it remains inactive through two federal general elections.
 - An active or inactive registration is canceled if it duplicates another registration that is more up-to-date. Duplicate registrations may occur when people move from one county to another, change their name, or forget they were still registered in another county.
 - A registration is canceled if the registration is identified in a screening for people who are deceased or convicted of a felony.
 - A registration is canceled if a voter requests to be canceled.
- Citizens who have a Washington driver's license or ID card can register to vote online at www.vote.wa.gov
- Washington State does not have party registration.

vote by mail

- Thirty-seven of Washington's thirty-nine counties vote by mail. King and Pierce counties still maintain poll sites, but King County plans to switch to vote-by-mail elections in 2009.
- In the 2007 November General Election 92.2 percent of Washington voters cast ballots by mail.
- Once a ballot is returned to the elections department, the voter's registration file is checked to confirm that the voter has not already returned a ballot.
- The signature on the envelope is verified against the signature on the voter registration file. If the signature on the envelope does not match the signature on file, or if the voter failed to sign the envelope, the County Auditor must attempt to contact the voter to correct the situation.
- Ballots are returned approximately:
 - 20 percent through the end of the first whole week ballots are out;
 - 23 percent from then through the end of the second week;
 - 10 percent the Monday before Election Day;
 - 21 percent on Election Day;
 - 26 percent come after Election Day.
- Ballots to overseas and military voters will be mailed by October 5, 2008.
- All other mail ballots will be sent by October 17, 2008.
- Many vote-by-mail counties have established voting centers to accommodate voters who prefer to vote in person or wish to vote on an accessible voting device. At a community voting center, voters may drop off ballots, request provisional ballots, vote on accessible voting equipment, and receive "I Voted" stickers.
- Each County Auditor is required to provide at least one location in addition to the County Auditor's Office for voters to drop off their ballots.

voting at the polls

- King and Pierce counties still maintain poll sites, although most voters cast ballots by mail.
- Polls are open on Election Day from 7:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m.
- Voters choosing to vote at polling places are required to show identification. Most voters choose to show photo identification, such as a driver's license, state ID card or student ID card. Federal law allows voters to present other forms of identification such as a voter registration card, utility bill, bank statement, paycheck, government check, or other government document.
- A voter who does not present ID may vote a provisional ballot.

voting equipment

- In Washington State, there are three types of paper ballots:
 - Fill in the oval
 - Fill in the rectangle
 - Connect the arrow
- Approximately 1 percent or less of the total ballots cast in an election are cast using electronic voting devices.
- In Pierce and King counties, approximately 2.2 percent of the ballots are cast on electronic voting devices.
- In the remaining counties, approximately 0.08 percent of the ballots are cast on electronic voting devices.
- Washington State requires a voter verified paper trail. Voters who cast ballots using electronic voting equipment can verify that their selections have been recorded properly.

certification of election

- Counties have until November 25, 2008, to certify the November 4 General Election.
- The Office of the Secretary of State has until December 4, 2008, to certify the November 4 General Election.
- To trigger a mandatory machine recount, the difference between the top two vote-getters must be less than 2,000 votes and less than one-half of 1 percent of the total number of votes cast for both candidates.
- To trigger a manual recount in a statewide election, the difference between the top two vote-getters must be less than 1,000 votes and less than one-fourth of 1 percent of the total number of votes cast for both candidates.

statistics

- Washington has approximately 3.4 million registered voters.
- Voter participation in the 2000 General Election was 75 percent.
- Voter participation in the 2004 General Election was 82 percent.
- Approximately 156,283 voters ages 18 to 24 participated in the November 2000 General Election, equalling 6 percent of all ballots cast.
- Approximately 244,112 voters age 18 to 24 participated in the November 2004 General Election, equalling 8.5 percent of all ballots cast.
- Voter participation is much higher for vote by mail than for poll voting.
 - In the 2008 Presidential Primary, King County mail voters turned out 29.8 percent, while poll voters turned out only 3.5 percent.
 - In the 2008 Presidential Primary, Pierce County mail voters turned out 34.61 percent, while poll voters turned out only 2.37 percent.
- The state is a very mobile population.
 - Each year approximately 96,000 people turn 18.
 - Each year approximately 46,000 to 49,000 people die.
 - Each year approximately 15 percent of the population moves.
 - Each year approximately 42,000 people change their name.

dates to remember

- October 4, 2008** - Last day for mail in and online voter registrations and transfers for the November 4 General Election. (RCW 29A.08.140)
- October 5, 2008** - Overseas and military ballots mailed for the November 4 General Election. (RCW 29A.40.070)
- October 15, 2008** - Absentee ballots available for the November 4 General Election. (RCW 29A.40.070)
- October 17, 2008** - Absentee ballots mailed for the November 4 General Election. (RCW 29A.40.070)
- October 20, 2008** - Last day of in-person registration for voters not currently registered in Washington State for the November 4 General Election. (RCW 29A.08.145)
- November 4, 2008** - General Election Day. (RCW 29A.04.321)
- November 25, 2008** - County Canvassing Boards certify the November 4 General Election. (RCW 29A.60.190)
- December 4, 2008** - Final day for the Secretary of State to certify the November 4 General Election. (RCW 29A.60.250)

general election voter education

September 29, 2008 - TV and radio ads start.

October 6, 2008 - Internet and ethnic print ads start.

voters' tool kit

Free services available 24-7 at the Secretary of State's website, www.vote.wa.gov .

MyVote

MyVote gives personalized, specific information to each voter who logs on with his or her name and birthdate, such as voting status, Voters' Pamphlet entries in the voter's district, ballot dropbox sites, voting history and contact information for federal, state, local and judicial officials, including websites and e-mail addresses.

Online Voters' Guide

The state's Online Voters' Guide allows voters to read the official statement and view a photo and bio for each of the candidates listed. Phone numbers, e-mail addresses, website addresses and mailing addresses for each of the candidates is also provided. Maps to ballot drop box locations are provided for voters in many counties.

Video Voters' Guide

TVW and the Office of the Secretary of State collaborate to present voters with the Video Voters' Guide. The Guide features statements from candidates for statewide elected office. The General Election edition will air through the November 4th General Election and is available online at www.tvw.org and www.vote.wa.gov .

Published September 07, 2008

Race for 35th district tops list of most costly for 2008

Brad Shannon

The 35th Legislative District race for retiring Rep. William Eickmeyer's seat is the state's most expensive House contest this year.

That's according to last week's PDC Flash, put together each Friday by Lori Anderson of the state Public Disclosure Commission. Anderson listed total spending in the race at \$186,376, just a bit higher than in the 6th district in Spokane.

The PDC reports also show that Democratic candidate Fred Finn of Thurston County has raised more than two-thirds of the money in the 35th district race — about \$133,656 — while spending \$122,457. That helped him pay for television ads and glossy brochures but he only narrowly won the primary.

Finn had 36 percent of the primary vote, compared with 32.4 percent for Republican Randy Neatherlin of Belfair. Republican Randy Neatherlin raised \$100,000 less than Finn and spent just \$27,114 while finishing second in a field of four Aug. 19.

Neatherlin did benefit from almost \$1,800 in third-party spending by a builders' political action committee based in Olympia that received money from the Building Industry Association of Washington.

Rounding out the field were Republican Herb Baze, 16.3 percent, and Democrat Daryl Daus, 15.3 percent.

Detailed reports show that Finn's pile of cash includes donations of \$800 or more from numerous political action committees and industries, including drug-makers, a broadband association, Service Employees International Union 775 Northwest, Glacier Northwest, Green Diamond Resource Company in Shelton, restaurants, optometrists, police and others.

In the 6th district, Democratic Rep. Don Barlow was challenged by two Republicans and an independent, and each GOP hopeful outspent him in the primary. Barlow led the field with almost 46 percent of the vote.

The other most-expensive races:

- **17th district:** \$171,746 spent, topped by Republican Joseph James, \$126,646, and Democrat Tim Probst, \$44,296. Probst got the most primary votes but James had enough to oust disgraced GOP Rep. Jim Dunn of Clark County from the running.
- **36th district:** \$163,429 spent. Democrat Reuven Carlyle has raised more than \$205,000 and spent \$81,637, while Democrat John Burbank raised more than \$156,000 and spent \$76,737 in bids to replace legendary Appropriations Chairwoman Helen Sommers of Seattle, who retired. Carlyle narrowly won the primary that featured a GOP also-ran.
- **10th district:** \$161,812 spent. Republican Rep. Barbara Bailey of Oak Harbor spent \$70,087 against two Democratic challengers, topped by Patricia Terry, who spent \$62,615. Bailey had more than 55 percent of the primary vote, followed by Terry.

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Article published Aug 20, 2008

Rep. Dicks to face Republican foe Cloud for third straight time

By Tom Callis, Peninsula Daily News

Republican Doug Cloud likely will once again challenge Rep. Norm Dicks, a Democrat, for the 6th Congressional District seat in the Nov. 4 general election.

Incumbent Dicks, of Belfair, was leading his three challengers with 51,953 votes, or about 58 percent, district-wide in the Tuesday primary election, as about 22.24 percent of votes statewide had been counted.

"We are very pleased with the numbers," said Dicks, 67, who is seeking a 17th term, from his campaign office in Tacoma.

"I don't see things changing much from the last primaries."

Cloud, 50, of Gig Harbor had received 25,925 votes, or 29 percent, as of 9:30 p.m. Tuesday.

"I didn't know what to expect," he said, in reference to the top-two primary system used in this election.

"But it's good to know that I'll maintain that position going into the general election."

Democratic candidate Paul Richmond, 47, of Port Townsend had received 8,388 votes, or about 9 percent.

Green Party candidate Gary Murrell, 61, of Hoquiam had received 3,145 votes, or about 3.5 percent.

For vote tallies as of Tuesday night in Clallam and Jefferson counties, see Page A6.

In the top-two primary system, the two candidates receiving the most votes, no matter what party affiliation, are selected go on to the general election.

The 6th Congressional District includes Clallam, Jefferson, Grays Harbor, Mason, Kitsap counties and parts of Tacoma.

Clallam County totals reflect the 12,128 ballots that been received through Thursday, said Patty Rosand, Clallam County Auditor, who estimated another 7,000 ballots were still to be counted.

In Jefferson County, about 10,828 ballots had been counted Tuesday, with another 1,000 ballots expected to be counted, Jefferson County Auditor Donna Eldridge said. **Seeking another term**
Cloud, who has faced Dicks in a general election twice before, plans to request a debate soon, he said.

Dicks wants to debate in Port Angeles.

He didn't participate in the primary debates because he "wanted to let my challengers fight it out," he

said.

"I have always debated my opponents in general election."

Although a fellow Democrat, Richmond said he opposed Dicks' support of the Iraq War, and he felt the Democratic Party has swung too far to the right.

"You have many Democrats who have tilted to the right of where Richard Nixon was at," he said.

Murrell said he is considering running for the position again.

"Last week, a lot of people have been encouraging me to do that," he said.

The two-year term pays \$169,300 annually, with annual cost of living increases and federal health and retirement benefits. _____

Reporter Tom Callis can be reached at 360-417-3532 or by e-mail at tom.callis@peninsuladailynews.com.

From the YakimaHerald.com Online News.

Published on Wednesday, August 20, 2008

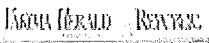

Gamache ousted in commissioner's race
Bouchey, Farias will face off in November election as two-term county commissioner third
by David Lester
Yakima Herald-Republic
<< prev 1 of 2 next >>



ANDY SAWYER/Yakima Herald-Republic
Kevin Bouchey hugs his campaign manager, Kathy Miller, after results in the primary election put him in front for the race for Yakima County Commissioner Tuesday, August 19, 2008, with a likely race against Jesse Farias in the general election.

Links

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Advertisement

Yakima County Commissioner Ron Gamache has lost a bid for a third term after being bested by two challengers in a crowded race.

Having garnered 40 percent of the votes counted Tuesday night, 48-year-old Kevin Bouchey, a third-generation Toppenish farmer, will face Wapato Mayor Jesse Farias in November for the District 2 seat.

Gamache, who has held seat the past eight years, came in third.

Bouchey said he had hoped to collect between 33 percent and 40 percent of the total vote and was glad he hit the top end of that range.

"I'm very pleased," Bouchey said. "We did all we could with mailings, media, yard signs and doorbelling. People appreciate that."

Bouchey received 2,850 votes to 2,043 votes, or 29 percent, for Farias.

Farias, 63, attributed his showing to a lot of telephone calling and talking to voters.

"I feel real good about tonight," the disabled Vietnam veteran and former regional director of the state Employment Security Department said.

Gamache, 64, trailed with 1,445 votes (20 percent). He said he was not ready to concede after looking at the vote totals.

"I will wait to see what happens," he said as he left the county courthouse shortly after vote tabulations were released by the Yakima County Auditor's Office.

Incumbent Commissioner Mike Leita, running unopposed for a second term representing District 1, collected 8,965 votes or nearly 96 percent of the ballots. That district includes the area from Tieton Drive north to the county line.

Votes will continue to be counted until the primary is certified Sept. 9. Ballots were required to be postmarked by Tuesday. But given the margins that emerged Tuesday, it appears unlikely the final outcome will change once all votes in the commissioner race are counted.

Union Gap City Councilmember Dan Olson came in fourth with 782 votes (11 percent).

Bouchey, Gamache and Olson are Republicans. Farias is the sole Democratic candidate in the race, leaving voters countywide to choose between a Republican and a Democrat in November, following the first test of the state's new "top-two" primary system.

Under the format, the two candidates with the highest vote totals move on to the general election, regardless of party affiliation.

Only voters in District 2 participated in narrowing the field of candidates. The district includes all county land south of Tieton Drive in Yakima and west of the Yakima River.

All four candidates in the election touted their own version of experience as the reason each deserved to represent the district.

Asked to run by the Central Washington Home Builders Association, Bouchey said his business experience would best serve the county. He was the only candidate in the race without prior government service.

Fellow Republicans Gamache and Olson have been part of the local political scene as has Farias.

The candidates focused on streamlining the approval of permits and development projects as ways to spur economic development in the county as their major initiatives, if elected.

But issues specific to the district got lots of attention during the campaign. Bouchey, Olson and Farias criticized the relocation of the Douglas Auto Wrecking business from the Yakima River to a spot along Yakima Valley Highway.

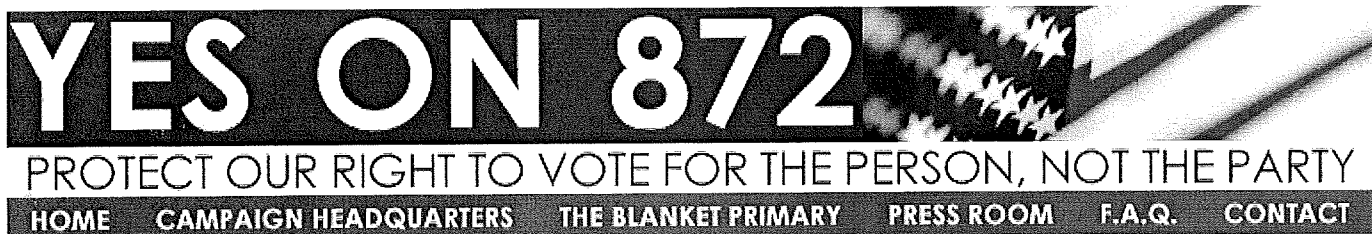
Neighbors challenged the move, saying a wrecking yard along the gateway to the Valley's wine industry sends the wrong message to tourists.

The challengers to incumbent Gamache also criticized the county for the purchase of 38 acres in Toppenish for a new county jail before finding out the city lacked enough water rights to serve the proposed 1,728-bed jail.

Only Olson said he would not favor continuing a three-tenths of a cent sales tax for criminal justice needs that will expire in 2010 unless voters agree to extend the tax.

Bouchey easily outdistanced his challengers in campaign contributions. He received more than \$73,000 to fund his run

for the seat and spent more than half to get his name before the voters. His expenditures exceeded those of his challengers combined.



NEWS RELEASE

April 1, 2004

For immediate release

GRANGE LAUNCHES "PEOPLE'S CHOICE" INITIATIVE CAMPAIGN IN RESPONSE TO GOVERNOR'S VETO

The Washington State Grange announced today that it is now collecting signatures for I-872 (the "People's Choice" initiative) to run on the November ballot.

The initiative will institute a "modified" blanket primary system (also known as a qualifying primary) in which voters will not be restricted to choosing among the candidates of only one party in a primary election. Voters will also not be required to declare party affiliation when registering.

The initiative would implement a "top-two" system in which the two top vote-getters in a primary election advance to the general election, regardless of party.

"Our initiative will put a system in place which looks almost identical to the blanket primary system we've been using for nearly 70 years," said Grange President Terry Hunt. "The only difference is that this system will satisfy the constitutional requirements set forth by the courts."

The campaign was launched in response to Gov. Locke's partial veto of Engrossed Senate Bill 6453, which was passed by the legislature last month. The bill would have put a top-two system in place, which would then revert to a Montana-style system in the event that legal challenges by the political parties resulted in a successful ruling.

However, the Gov. Locke vetoed the "top-two" system out of the bill, leaving only the Montana-style system in its place. Under this system, voters are required to choose a ballot from only one party at a primary election.

"The Governor defied the will of the voters, and he defied the will of the legislators elected to represent those voters," said Hunt. "By changing the intent of the bill, he will have to face not only our initiative campaign, but a law suit by the Grange as well. He simply can't veto the qualifying primary out of a bill that is titled 'Enacting a Qualifying Primary.'"

####

For more information, contact David Burr, Communications Director, (360) 943-9911.

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Herrera faces first election challenge

Republican defends 18th District seat

Kathie Durbin

Columbian staff writer

Last November, Jaime Herrera wowed Clark and Cowlitz county commissioners, who appointed the conservative Republican from a field of three finalists to fill the 18th District vacancy created by the resignation of Rep. Richard Curtis.

Now, Herrera, a 30-year-old former policy assistant to Republican U.S. Rep. Cathy McMorris Rodgers, faces her first true election contest, against 37-year-old Democrat VaNessa Duplessie, a Ridgefield businesswoman who originally filed to challenge Curtis 21 months ago.

Both women have strong professional credentials, and they agree on some issues, including the need to boost state support for basic education, the paramount responsibility of government under the state constitution. Both support effective vocational education. Each says she would work across party lines to get things accomplished in Olympia.

Herrera won the top two primary handily, with 60 percent to Duplessie's 40 percent.

During the 2008 legislative session, she formed a close alliance with fellow 18th District Republican Sen. Joe Zarelli and Rep. Ed Orcutt on budget and social issues. The three have held several joint campaign appearances.

Herrera says she hit the ground running in her first session by protecting \$11 million in state funding for the Ridgefield Interstate 5 interchange; introducing a successful floor amendment on a health care bill that requires the insurance commissioner to propose legislation that would allow Washington residents to buy insurance in other states; and winning passage of her first self-standing bill, which relieves active-duty military personnel of interest and penalties on delinquent excise taxes.

"That's pretty impressive for a junior member of the minority party," she said.

Building on her background in federal health care policy in Washington, D.C., Herrera recently won appointment to the House Health and Long-term Care Committee.

A fiscal as well as a social conservative, she said she would look for abuses in Medicaid, the state-federal health insurance program for the poor, as one way to cut state spending in the face of a projected \$3.2 billion deficit.

"More and more, I feel my job is to protect people from the state government," she said.

She also wants to look at what the state is getting for the \$9,500 per student it spends on K-12 education. "I am for fully funding education, but what is the return on our investment?" she said. "Our high school graduation rates are unacceptable."

A graduate of Prairie High School and the University of Washington, Herrera left her job on Capitol Hill to run for the Legislature. She is single and lives in Ridgefield.

Duplessie, married and the mother of two young children, has a degree in business from San Francisco State University. She manages public relations for a Bellevue technology company, telecommuting from her Ridgefield home, and also works as a consultant.

She moved to Clark County in 2001 after four years in Portland following a move from the Bay Area in 1997. She ran for the Ridgefield School Board in 2005 but was disqualified after it was determined that she was not a resident of the district.

Duplessie won the 2006 George C. Marshall Public Leadership Award for her work in mentoring young people in Oregon's Multnomah County. She has remained active in children's issues.

"I jumped into this race almost 21 months ago because of my children," she said. "I want my kids to get a good education. I'm cautious financially. I want to help small businesses."

She said she chose to run as a Democrat though she describes herself as "a lifelong independent who votes for whoever I think is going to do a better job."

Duplessie said she can be more effective for the 18th District as a member of the Democratic Party, which controls the House and Senate. "I'll be in the room where people are making decisions," she said.

The Seattle Times

Wednesday, September 17, 2008 - Page updated at 10:40 AM

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It's time for state's political parties to embrace the top-two primary

By Sam Reed
Special to The Times

I respectfully call upon the political parties of Washington to drop their continuing legal challenges to the top-two primary. They should put their time and talent to better use improving our state and developing new leaders for tomorrow, rather than fighting the clear will of the people.

The voters of Washington approved this new system by a landslide margin in 2004, and last March, the highest court in the land, in a ringing 7-2 opinion, set aside objections from the political parties and cleared the way for this popular new system to be used this summer.

The people love it, pure and simple. In my travels across this state and in conversations with our hardworking county auditors, one message comes through loud and clear: Voters are delighted to return to a system that allows maximum independence of thought and choice.

The top-two primary puts voters back in the driver's seat, permitting them to vote their favorite for each and every office, without limiting their choices to just one party's ballot. This new wide-open system honors our longtime political tradition that we "vote for the person, not the party." It's our heritage and it's our preference, a central reality the parties seem too willing to dismiss. It's the way we want to vote.

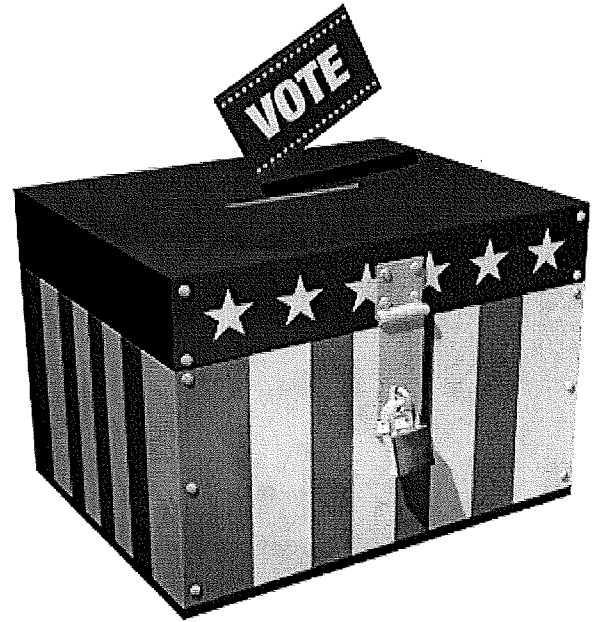
People were absolutely furious in recent years when they were restricted to just one party's primary candidates. They flooded state and county elections offices with irate calls and e-mails. Some shredded their ballots, others returned them with obscenities scrawled across them and others, sadly, simply boycotted the election.

This time around, with the voter-approved top-two system finally given the green light, we heard plenty of positive, enthusiastic feedback. A new statewide Elway Poll shows more than three-quarters of our voters like the new system, and vastly prefer it to the old pick-a-party system that limited voter choice. Democrats, Republicans and independents concur.

So here's the point: It's time for the parties to move on. They've already filed challenges in federal court, suing our voters and the system they adopted with a landslide, 60-percent vote. The party leaders won't rest until they get a more-restrictive, party-based system — public opinion be damned, apparently.

The political parties already have spent years — and hundreds of thousands of contributors' dollars — battling the wide-open system of voting that so many of us want. Due to their courtroom challenges, we've had three types of primaries in the last five years and now they're threatening still more lawsuits, more spending, more unrest. Every time they haul us to court, of course, the taxpayers have to foot the bill for defending the voters' rights.

So, I think most of us would say it's high time for the parties to just let it go and to use their time and money and energy to



recruit and support their candidates.

I have been a strong party advocate for decades and I adamantly believe in a vibrant system of political parties, including our minor parties. The parties have a vital and creative role to play, and I honestly believe they will thrive in the top-two environment, bringing forward their best possible candidates and allowing the voters' choices to face off in November.

We hope that newly competitive races in formerly one-party districts will spur even more choices for voters in the future.

We wish the parties well. But on this matter of the top-two primary, we stand with the voters. Let's move forward.

Sam Reed is Washington's 14th secretary of state and the former president of the National Association of Secretaries of State. He may be reached at sreed@secstate.wa.gov

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John White

From: Spencer, Hal (GOV) [Hal.Spencer@GOV.WA.GOV]

Sent: Tuesday, August 19, 2008 8:46 AM

To: Ammons, Dave

Subject: funny story, or maybe not

Donna opens her ballot and starts. She says to me, "Do I HAVE to pick a second choice for gov. I only want one."

Turns out she thought the Top Two meant she picks her top two in every race. I had to argue with her and finally showed her the "vote for only one."

Hal

9/15/2008

[Print Page](#)

Editorial: 'Top two' primary is fairest of them all (Published Aug. 19)

Washington state's "top-two" primary gets its first trial run today, and we'll be watching with interest to see if this controversial style of choosing general-election candidates results in the immediate collapse of democracy there.

We overstate, of course, the arguments made by opponents of the top-two primary. Nevertheless, voters in this state should get ready to hear a lot more about this type of election, because a measure to move to a top-two primary in Oregon is on November's ballot.

Oregon's Measure 65 essentially would change the way candidates advance to the general election for most partisan offices. Here's how it would work: All candidates, regardless of party designation, would run in a single primary. Only the two top vote-getters would advance to the general election. Both the primary — and general-election ballots — would contain the candidates' party registrations. But such designations would not necessarily mean that a candidate had the blessing of the party. The ballots also would list which party endorsements candidates have collected.

As you might imagine, political parties are unhappy with the notion of a top-two primary. In fact, the ballot initiative to move to a top-two primary in Washington passed overwhelmingly in 2004, but it has been held up by litigation until now.

The political parties have a couple of arguments against the top-two system that bear consideration: They argue, for example, that in some races — and, in fact, this will happen today in Washington — two candidates from the same party will advance to the general election, depriving voters from another party of a meaningful choice in November. And at first glance, the top-two primary seems likely to make it more difficult for third-party candidates to make the November ballot.

On the other hand, the top-two system would save us from the annual election spectacle of candidates tacking one way in the primary to win the favors of the party faithful and then moving in another direction to appeal to a broader constituency.

Another argument you'll hear from opponents of the top-two election is that the system could increase voter confusion about what candidates really stand for. But a result that seems more likely to us is that voters will spend more time assessing candidates' positions on issues and less time fretting about party affiliation.

However, the argument that could trump them all is this one: Voters may find that the top-two primary gets them re-energized about the power — and the responsibility — of voting. Predictions are that today's election in Washington could draw a near-record turnout. That's the kind of result that could go a long ways toward forestalling the collapse of democracy.

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John White

From: Deutsch, Joanie [jdeutsch@secstate.wa.gov]
Sent: Monday, August 18, 2008 11:35 AM
To: Ammons, Dave; Blinn, Katie
Subject: RE: Top 2 - Impact on Minor Parties
Attachments: Candidate filing party preferences other than Democratic Party or Republican Party.doc

That's this document we worked on Thursday.

Joanie Deutsch | Policy Analyst
Elections Division | Office of the Secretary of State
Phone (360) 902-4182 | Cell (360) 791-4239
www.secstate.wa.gov/elections

From: Ammons, Dave
Sent: Monday, August 18, 2008 11:30 AM
To: Blinn, Katie
Cc: Deutsch, Joanie
Subject: FW: Top 2 - Impact on Minor Parties

Do you recognize this? I don't think I've seen this header. I'll send McGann our turnout prediction press release; do we have anything in writing about the way minor party folks are handled in the new system?

Best,
d.

David Ammons
Communications Director
Office of Secretary of State
o (360) 902-4140
c (360) 280-3944
h (360)357-8908

From: McGann, Chris [mailto:ChrisMcGann@seattlepi.com]
Sent: Monday, August 18, 2008 11:12 AM
To: Ammons, Dave
Subject: RE: Top 2 - Impact on Minor Parties

Dave,
Could you please explain to me this column

Number of Non D or R Represented

\
Does that mean that's the number of non-major party folks made the general election -- that doesn't really make sense because you've got 2008.

Also -- do you have a presser with Sam's primary turnout predictions and the any statements he's made about minor party candidates?

9/15/2008

Thanks,
Chris McGann

-----Original Message-----

From: Ammons, Dave [mailto:dammons@secstate.wa.gov]

Sent: Thursday, August 07, 2008 9:35 AM

Cc: Legislative Bldg - Communications

Subject: FW: Top 2 - Impact on Minor Parties

FYI...

David Ammons
Communications Director
Office of Secretary of State
o (360) 902-4140
c (360) 280-3944
h (360)357-8908

9/15/2008

Candidate filing party preferences other than Democratic Party or Republican Party

Federal, Statewide and Legislative Office

Year	Candidates Filed	Non D or R Candidates Filed	% of Candidates Non D or R	Non D or R parties	Non D or R Filings
2000	412	73	18%	8	Libertarian 59 Natural Law 6 Independent 2 Reform 2 Green 1 Natural Medicine 1 American Heritage 1 Constitution 1
2002	291	27	9%	3	Libertarian 20 Green 4 Independent 3
2004	410	49	12%	2	Libertarian 43 Green 6
2006	275	5	2%	4	Libertarian 1 Independent 2 Green 1 Progressive 1
2008	341	32	9%	12	Constitution 4 Green 4 States No Party 11 Reform 1 Independent 4 Party of Commons 1 America's Third 1 Cut Taxes G.O.P. 2 Progressive Dem. 1 Progressive 1 Libertarian 1 Salmon Yoga 1

John White

From: Deutsch, Joanie [jdeutsch@secstate.wa.gov]
Sent: Monday, August 18, 2008 10:17 AM
To: Reed, Sam (Office); Ammons, Dave
Cc: Handy, Nick; Hamlin, Shane; Excell, Steve
Subject: Places where two candidates from the same party move to November

Just a reminder for some of you, here are the places we know for sure two candidates from the same party will be advancing to the November General:

Legislative District 7 (Ferry, Lincoln, Okanogan, Pend Oreille, Spokane, Stevens)
State Representative Position 1

Sue Lani Madsen
(Prefers Republican Party)
Shelly Short
(Prefers Republican Party)
Mike Davis
(Prefers Republican Party)
Peter Davenport
(Prefers Republican Party)
Kelly White
(Prefers G.O.P. Party)

Legislative District 11 (King)
State Senator

Juan Martinez
(Prefers Democratic Party)
Margarita Prentice
(Prefers Democratic Party)
Scott McKay
(Prefers Democratic Party)

Legislative District 22 (Thurston)
State Senator

Karen Fraser
(Prefers Democratic Party)
Erik Lee
(Prefers Democratic Party)

I've contacted Allen Hayward from the Republican caucus who only gave me his prediction of the 7th Legislative District... which as you can see is already listed above.

I have yet to hear back from Keith Buccholz with the Democratic caucus.

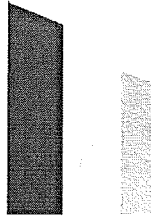
Joanie Deutsch | Policy Analyst

9/15/2008

Elections Division | Office of the Secretary of State

Phone (360) 902-4182 | Cell (360) 791-4239

www.secstate.wa.gov/elections



Washington State Elections Division

**TOP TWO PRIMARY ELECTION
EVALUATION**

August 2008

ER
ELWAY RESEARCH, INC.



Washington State Elections Division

State Primary Voters' Evaluation of the Primary Election

August 2008

INTRODUCTION

This report summarizes the results of a telephone survey conducted by Elway Research for the Elections Division of the Washington Secretary of State's Office. The survey interviewed Washington State primary voters in order to measure their reactions to the recent change in the state primary voting system. The voters were specifically queried as to their:

- Awareness of the use of a new system in the most recent (August 19th) primary election.
- Whether those who were aware had heard or seen ads explaining the change, before the election.
- Whether they liked or disliked the "top two" primary system.
- Whether they liked or disliked the "pick a party" primary system.

Demographic information was also included in order to profile those with certain opinions.

This report organizes the survey findings and analysis in order of the research questions listed above. Each section contains a narrative interpretation of findings followed by annotated charts of the pertinent survey results. A complete set of crosstabulation tables is presented in the appendix.



METHODS

SAMPLE:	500 registered voters in Washington who had voted in both the 2006 and 2008 primary elections.
TECHNIQUE:	Telephone Survey
FIELD DATES:	August 22 - 24, 2008
MARGIN OF ERROR:	$\pm 4.5\%$ at the 95% confidence interval. That is, in theory, had all similarly qualified voters been interviewed, there is a 95% chance the results would be within $\pm 5\%$ of the results in this survey.
DATA COLLECTION:	Calls were made during weekday evenings and weekend days. Trained, professional interviewers under supervision conducted all interviews. Up to four attempts were made to contact a head of household at each number in the sample before a substitute number was called. Questionnaires were edited for completeness, and a percentage of each interviewer's calls were re-called for verification.

It must be kept in mind that survey research cannot predict the future. Although great care and the most rigorous methods available were employed in the design, execution and analysis of this survey, these results can be interpreted only as representing the answers given by these respondents to these questions at the time they were interviewed.

RESPONDENT PROFILE

The sample was a stratified random sample. That is, known demographic characteristics were held at quotas to ensure that the this sample mirrored the demographic characteristics of the 2006 primary electorate. The table below shows the demographic profile of the 500 in this survey, compared to the 2006 primary.

All of the demographic categories within this sample are within the margin of error of the demographics of the last state primary. The greatest discrepancy was in the male/female split, which differ by 3%. To alleviate any potential discrepancy, the data presented in this report have been statistically weighted the data, as shown in the last column.¹ A comparative analysis of the wiethed and unweighed data indicates that weighting did not impact the results of the survey.

Note: Here and throughout this report, percentages may not add to 100%, due to rounding.

Table 1
Comparison of Demographic Profiles

Category	% in 2006 Primary	% in Survey (no wghts)	% in Survey (Weighted)
Age			
18-34	7%	5%	5%
35-44	11%	11%	11%
45-59	33%	36%	36%
60+	49%	47%	47%
Gender			
Male	46%	43%	46%
Female	54%	57%	54%
Congressional District			
1	12%	12%	12%
2	12%	12%	12%
3	12%	12%	12%
4	9%	9%	9%
5	11%	11%	11%
6	11%	11%	11%
7	11%	11%	11%
8	12%	12%	12%
9	10%	10%	10%

¹ Weighting the cases by gender means that each male would be counted as 1.06 cases, and each female as .95.



KEY FINDINGS

- ◆ **7 in 10 (70%) Primary voters prefer Top Two system to Pick-a-Party System**
 - This includes 2/3 partisans and 82% of Independents
 - 68% of Democrats and 66% of Republicans preferred Top Two
- ◆ **76% liked the Top Two system**
 - 83% of Independents liked the Top Two system, as did
 - 80% of Democrats and
 - 66% of Republicans
 -
- ◆ **28% liked the Pick-a-Party System**
 - 33% of Democrats liked it, as did
 - 32% of Republicans, but only
 - 18% of Independents
- ◆ **94% of Primary voters were aware of new system**
- ◆ **75% had seen or heard advertising or news stories about the new system prior to voting.**

John White

From: Blinn, Katie [kblinn@secstate.wa.gov]
Sent: Wednesday, August 13, 2008 3:32 PM
To: Ammons, Dave; Aust, Erika; Pryor, Lindsay; Deutsch, Joanie
Cc: Handy, Nick; Hamlin, Shane; Legislative Bldg - Communications; Even, Jeff
Subject: RE: Sam's letter to voters in Voters' Pamphlet

Dave,

Thank you very much. I like this quite a bit. My only small recommendation pertains to this sentence: **Minor parties were part of the primary process.**

I have concerns about this for two reasons. First, the parties aren't really a part of the process, the candidates are. Second, there will be at least one candidate who advances to the General who prefers a minor party, Ruth Bennett.

Thank you for writing a nice letter!

Katie

From: Ammons, Dave
Sent: Wed 8/13/2008 9:12 AM
To: Aust, Erika; Pryor, Lindsay; Deutsch, Joanie
Cc: Handy, Nick; Hamlin, Shane; Blinn, Katie; Legislative Bldg - Communications; Even, Jeff
Subject: Sam's letter to voters in Voters' Pamphlet

It's your choice ... it's your voice!

This is truly an exciting time to be a voter in Washington state. Our 2008 General Election marks the first time since 1952 with no incumbents in the race for the White House, and we in Washington will choose statewide elected leaders and the congressmen, legislators, judges and local officials who will lead us during this pivotal moment in our history. You will play a central role in deciding our future.

We have just concluded our first use of the voter-approved Top 2 primary that produced the slate of candidates you see on these pages. Voters have chosen finalists based on their favorite for each partisan office, without regard to party label. You will note that candidates describe their party preference, but this doesn't mean that the party endorses or identifies with the candidate. The Top 2 Primary was not a nominating process, but rather a way for voters to winnow the field for each office to two finalists. In some cases, finalists may share the same partisan preference. Minor parties were part of the primary process.

Now it's your opportunity to pick the winners!

As your chief elections official, I want to assure you that our elections process has seen dramatic improvement since 2004, when we had the closest race for governor in history, and unprecedented scrutiny.

9/15/2008

There have been 180 changes to state election law and 1,100 administrative rule changes, all designed to give you confidence in the accuracy and integrity of this process we all hold dear. The most striking improvement was creation of a statewide voter registration database that has greatly improved our ability to keep voter registration records current and accountable. Today, voter rolls are the cleanest they have ever been.

As a voter you now have more information than ever before. Visit us online at www.vote.wa.gov for a variety of resources. Click on **MyVote** to get customized voting information. Study this **Voters' Pamphlet** and check out the **Video Voters' Guide** and our new "I Will Vote" feature.

Thanks for participating!

(signed, Sam Reed)

John White

From: Berger, Carolyn [cberger@secstate.wa.gov]
Sent: Thursday, August 07, 2008 9:21 AM
To: Ammons, Dave
Cc: Handy, Nick
Subject: Top 2 - Impact on Minor Parties
Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged
Attachments: PRIMARY-GEN'L ELECTIONS-Compare.doc; PRIMARY-GEN'L ELECTIONS-Compare (2).doc

Good morning Dave,

Attached are the two versions Sam preferred of the comparison of Minor Party candidate filings in even years over the time frame of 2000 to 2008.

Nick suggested that I forward these documents to you to use as needed for Sam.

Thank you, Dave.

Carolyn

Carolyn Berger
Office of the Secretary of State
Elections Division
Phone: 360.902.4180

9/15/2008

STATEWIDE PRIMARY/GENERAL ELECTIONS
Minor Party Candidate Filing
Federal, Congressional and Legislative Positions
2000, 2002, 2004, 2006, and 2008

YEAR	Number of Candidates Filed	Number of Minor Party Candidates Filed	Percentage of Minor Party Candidates	Number of Minor Parties Represented	Minor Party Filings
2000	229	46	20%	6	Libertarian 37 Natural Law 4 Green 1 Reform 2 Natural Medicine 1 American Heritage 1
2002	291	27	9%	3	Libertarian 20 Green 4 Independent 2
2004	410	43	12%	2	Libertarian 43 Green 6
2006*	134	8	6%	4	Libertarian 3 Green 2 Progressive 1 Independent 2
2008	262	22	8%	12	Libertarian 2 Constitution 4 Green 4 Independent 4 Reform 1 Party of Commons 1 America's Third Party 1 Cut Taxes G.O.P. 1 Progressive Democrat 1 Progressive Party 1 Salmon Yoga 1

*Note: 2006 was the first "Pick-a-Party Primary," so the minor parties represented were listed on the General Election ballot only.

STATEWIDE PRIMARY/GENERAL ELECTIONS
Candidate Filings other than Democrat and Republican
Federal, Congressional and Legislative Positions
2000, 2002, 2004, 2006, and 2008

YEAR	No. of Candidates Filed	No. of Non D or R Party Candidates Filed	Percentage of Non D or R Candidates	Number of Non D or R Represented	Non D or R Filings
2000	229	46	20%	6	Libertarian 37 Natural Law 4 Green 1 Reform 2 Natural Medicine 1 American Heritage 1
2002	291	27	9%	3	Libertarian 20 Green 4 Independent 2
2004	410	43	12%	2	Libertarian 43 Green 6
2006*	134	8	6%	4	Libertarian 3 Green 2 Progressive 1 Independent 2
2008	262	32	12%	12	Libertarian 2 Constitution 4 Green 4 States No Party 11 Independent 4 Reform 1 Party of Commons 1 America's Third Party 1 Cut Taxes G.O.P. 1 Progressive Democrat 1 Progressive Party 1 Salmon Yoga 1

*Note: 2006 was the first "Pick-a-Party Primary," so the candidate filings other than Democrat or Republican represented were listed on the General Election ballot only.

John White

From: Ammons, Dave [dammons@secstate.wa.gov]
Sent: Monday, August 04, 2008 1:04 PM
To: Susan Gilmore
Subject: RE: Reader Feedback: new post for "Questions about the new top-two primary?"

Our new voter-approved Top 2 Primary allows candidates to self-describe their party preference, but doesn't directly attach the party label to the candidate, as that might imply that they have the party's blessings. As Chief Justice Roberts wrote in supporting the Top 2 majority, just because someone likes Campbell's soup doesn't mean the Campbell's Soup Co. supports him or her.

Parties are free to nominate their favored candidates, but this information does not go on the ballot. This information may be used in campaigns and in the Voters' Pamphlet.

David Ammons
Communications Director
Office of Secretary of State
o (360) 902-4140
c (360) 280-3944
h (360)357-8908

-----Original Message-----

From: Susan Gilmore [mailto:sgilmore@seattletimes.com]
Sent: Monday, August 04, 2008 11:11 AM
To: Ammons, Dave
Subject: FW: Reader Feedback: new post for "Questions about the new top-two primary?"

Hi David:

We're soliciting reader questions on the top-two and I'm going to send a couple to you to get the answers. Here's the first:

-----Original Message-----

From: Reader Feedback Manager
[mailto:newmediaseattletimesengineers@seattletimes.com]
Sent: Monday, August 04, 2008 8:47 AM
To: Susan Gilmore; Richard Wagoner; T.J. Ortenzi
Subject: Reader Feedback: new post for "Questions about the new top-two primary?"

Thread: Questions about the new top-two primary?
Submitted Date: 08/04/2008 08:46 am
Moderate:

http://community.seattletimes.nwsources.com/reader_feedback/admin/moderate.php?id=757

Display Name: Carol
Location: Everett

Message:

9/15/2008

Why does the voter's pamphlet say "prefers" democrat or republican ?
Why not just say they are democrat or republican.

Custom fields:

John White

From: Ammons, Dave [dammons@secstate.wa.gov]
Sent: Friday, August 01, 2008 6:19 PM
To: Susan Gilmore
Subject: RE: `Top 2 Palooza' tour

You bet. Free of charge. You owe me a beer.
d.

David Ammons
Communications Director
Office of Secretary of State
o (360) 902-4140
c (360) 280-3944
h (360)357-8908

From: Susan Gilmore [mailto:sgilmore@seattletimes.com]
Sent: Friday, August 01, 2008 4:35 PM
To: Ammons, Dave
Subject: RE: `Top 2 Palooza' tour

many thanks. send me your bill.

From: Ammons, Dave [mailto:dammons@secstate.wa.gov]
Sent: Friday, August 01, 2008 3:52 PM
To: Susan Gilmore
Subject: RE: `Top 2 Palooza' tour

SR.com: An overview of the top two system

SPOKESMANREVIEW.COM

Friday, August 1,

SPOKANE

An overview of the top two system

Jim Camden
Staff writer
July 13, 2008

The Spokesman-Review's election-answer person responds to some of the frequently asked questions about the upcoming Washington state primary:

Q: So, with all these campaign yard signs I'm seeing everywhere, do we have an election or something coming up?

A: Yes, the state primary, also known as the top two primary, is Aug. 19.

Q: Isn't that a bit early?

A: It might seem that way, particularly for longtime Washington voters who got used to the primary being in September. But last year the Legislature moved the primary to the third Tuesday in August to put more time between the primary and the general election in November.

Q: And they did this to ... ?

A: To allow more time to print up and mail out the general election ballots. Most of the state votes by mail now, and there were concerns that military members serving overseas wouldn't get their ballots in time to mark them and get them back if a primary race was so close it needed a recount.

Q: So this year's primary is like last year's primary?

A: Only as far as scheduling is concerned. This year the state will debut the top two primary, in which voters get a single ballot with all the candidates' names on it. A voter can choose a candidate from any party for any race, but only one candidate per office.

9/15/2008

Last year's election was primarily for municipal offices, which are nonpartisan, but two years ago, the partisan primary was limited by party and voters had to pick one party's ballot and select only among that party's candidates.

Q: That doesn't sound right. Weren't we able to pick a Democrat for one office, a Republican for another and even a communist for a third if we wanted in primaries?

A: Once upon a time, but not in 2006. What you're thinking of is the old blanket primary, which Washington had for about 70 years.

Q: Yeah, I remember that system. Why'd we get rid of that?

Because the federal courts said it was unconstitutional. It infringed on the political parties' ability to make sure that Democratic nominees were selected by Democrats, Republican nominees by Republicans, and so forth, the 9th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals said in 2003. So the voters opted for the top two primary in an initiative in 2004.

Q: But if it passed in 2004, how come we're just doing this for the first time in 2008?

A: Because the major political parties, who successfully sued the state to get rid of the blanket primary, also sued over the top two primary. While the suit was pending, the state used an alternate system it cobbled together after the federal court ruling, which required separate party ballots or at least divisions for the parties on a single ballot. The U.S. Supreme Court didn't rule that the top two primary could pass constitutional muster until this March.

Q: So now everyone's happy with this top two system?

A: The major political parties think the way it has been set up for this election is unconstitutional and sent letters to Secretary of State Sam Reed last week to that effect. They'll probably be back in federal court at some point, but Reed says the election will go on as planned.

Q: How will it work?

A: You'll get one ballot with all the races on it, partisan offices as well as the nonpartisan races like the judges. Most counties vote completely by mail, so those ballots will arrive around the end of July, and must be postmarked no later than Election Day, which is Aug. 19. It's a fairly busy election year, so all the statewide executive offices, from governor on down, are on the ballot, as are the U.S. House races (there's no U.S. Senate race this year in Washington), legislative races and county commissioner posts in many counties.

On the partisan races, candidates will list their party preference, but you can vote for any candidate in any race.

Q: So I can vote for Barack Obama for president but Dino Rossi for governor?

A: No. The presidential primary was in February, so Obama and John McCain won't be on the Washington ballot again until November. But you could vote for Rossi, who lists his party preference as GOP, for governor; Brad Owen, who lists his party preference as a Democrat, for lieutenant governor; Marilyn Montgomery, who lists the Constitution Party, for secretary of state; and Curt Fackler, who lists no party preference, for insurance commissioner. In the old system, the Democrat who got the most votes and the Republican who got the most votes automatically went to the general election. So did any third party candidate or independent candidate who got a minimum vote threshold. Under this system, the top two vote recipients, regardless of party preference, go on to the general.

Q: Why do you keep saying "party preference" instead of just "party"?

A: Because the candidates are only asked which party they would prefer to have listed. The parties still have no say in determining who gets to call themselves a Democrat or a Republican and can endorse a candidate or not as they see fit. The winner isn't the party's nominee.

Q: So in some races, we could have two Democrats or two Republicans in the general election?

A: That's possible. It will happen in a state House race in the 7th Legislative District, because only Republicans are running. It could happen in a race with candidates of several different party preferences listed, although it's mathematically unlikely in a race with several candidates from one major party and a single candidate from the other major party.

Q: What about the Greens, the Libertarians, the other minor parties and the independents?

A: In theory, they've got the same chance as any candidate listing Democratic or Republican preference. In reality, it could be difficult for them to get to the general election if there's a Democrat and a Republican in that race.

Q: So this is the way the primary is going to be from now on?

A: Hard to say. We've had three different systems since 2004, so it would be a bit of a surprise if something didn't change between now and 2010. In the meantime, don't forget: any candidate for any race, but only one candidate per race, and the ballots must be postmarked by Aug. 19.

David Ammons

Communications Director
Office of Secretary of State

o (360) 902-4140

c (360) 280-3944

h (360)357-8908

From: Susan Gilmore [mailto:sgilmore@seattletimes.com]

9/15/2008

Sent: Friday, August 01, 2008 3:44 PM
To: Ammons, Dave
Subject: RE: 'Top 2 Palooza' tour

do you have the camden article you could send me? I can't get it without paying for it, even on google. thanks.

From: Ammons, Dave [mailto:dammons@secstate.wa.gov]
Sent: Friday, August 01, 2008 2:49 PM
To: Susan Gilmore
Subject: RE: 'Top 2 Palooza' tour

We have an excellent FAQ for voters and a separate one for candidates. Both are on vote.wa.gov. Also you might Google Jim Camden's Q&A over at the Spokane Spokesman-Review from several weeks ago.

Hope all goes well, and that you're back to health.
Best.

dave

David Ammons
Communications Director
Office of Secretary of State
o (360) 902-4140
c (360) 280-3944
h (360)357-8908

From: Susan Gilmore [mailto:sgilmore@seattletimes.com]
Sent: Friday, August 01, 2008 2:20 PM
To: Ammons, Dave
Subject: RE: 'Top 2 Palooza' tour

hey david:

The powers that be here want us to do a big q and a on the top two and we're now soliciting questions from readers, but do you have anything already put together answering the burning questions? thanks, susan

From: Ammons, Dave [mailto:dammons@secstate.wa.gov]
Sent: Friday, August 01, 2008 2:14 PM
Cc: Reed, Sam (Office); Elections; Deutsch, Joanie; Even, Jeff; Egan, Bobbie; Guthrie, Janelle (ATG)
Subject: 'Top 2 Palooza' tour



Secretary of State
SAM REED

Media Advisory

9/15/2008

Secretary of State to hold media availability to discuss Top 2 Primary

Issued: August 1, 2008
Contact: Stephanie Horn
(360) 902-4193

OLYMPIA __ Secretary of State Sam Reed, the state's chief elections official, plans a statewide media tour during the next two weeks to discuss Washington's brand new Top 2 primary, answer critics, and release his turnout prediction. He will also tout the state's unique MyVote program, a one-stop, custom-tailored way for voters to check on their registration, to learn more about the races they have on their ballot and to check on the closest dropoff site for mail ballots. We will have Top 2 media kits, which are also available online at www.vote.wa.gov/. Some of the events are editorial boards or one-on-one interviews and others are open-media regional news conferences that are co-hosted by County Auditors. We hope you can attend the event closest to you. We can also arrange interviews (newspaper, radio, TV, bloggers) during the run-up to election day, Aug. 19. Most mail ballots are being sent to voters this weekend and early in the new week. Of the 39 counties, only King and Pierce still have poll site voting.

The kickoff of our "Top 2 Palooza" will be Monday morning with a walkabout at the press houses on the Capitol Campuses in Olympia at 10 a.m.

The four regional media events:

August 6, 9:30 am – 10:30 am

King County Elections Department
919 SW Grady Way
Renton, WA 98057

Joining Secretary Reed is Elections Director Sherril Huff.

August 6, 1:30 pm – 2:30 pm

Spokane County Elections Department
1033 West Gardner
Spokane, WA 99260

Joining Secretary Reed is Spokane County Auditor Vicki Dalton.

August 12, 10:30 am – 11:30 am

Yakima County Elections Department
128 N 2nd Street
Yakima, WA 98901

Joining Secretary Reed are Yakima County Auditor Corky Mattingly, Klickitat County Auditor Brenda Sorenson, and Kittitas County Auditor Jerry Pettit.

August 12, 1:30 pm – 2:30 pm

Benton County Elections Department
620 Market Street
Prosser, WA 99350

Joining Secretary Reed are Benton County Auditor Bobbie Gagner, Walla Walla County Auditor Karen Martin, and Franklin County Auditor Zona Lenhart.

9/15/2008

###

David Ammons
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o (360) 902-4140
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9/15/2008